

Regional Service Council Minutes Region 7

Meeting Date: October 12, 2007

Meeting Location: Blackford County Courthouse Annex, Hartford City, Indiana

Council Members Present: Pat Ergle, Betty Lyons, Deb McGriff-Tharp, Peggy Stewart, Jackie Hendrickson (proxy for Judge Toney), Mary Lou Hinkle, Jackie Fisher, Steve Cox

Council Members Absent: Judge Dailey, Judge Young, Chuck Osterholt

Others In Attendance: Margaret Richardson (Community Partners/Meridian Services), Mich Rich (Blackford/Jay FCM Supervisor), David Eilar (Wernle Childrens Home), Carmen Young (Resource Residential Treatment), Shawna Mikesell (Dunn Center/Foster Care Select), Deanna Reece (Family Services Society, Inc), Blake Hudson (Youth Services Bureau of Jay County), Reda Theurer-Miller (Youth Services Bureau of Jay County)

Meeting called to order at 1:05 PM by Regional Manager Steve Cox

1. Approval of Minutes of August 10, 2007 meeting: Motion of Deb McGriff-Tharp and second of Betty Lyons. Minutes approved
2. DCS Practice Principle Reports: Copies of the September CFTM outcome report and the September practice reform progress report were distributed and reviewed.
3. Community Partners Report: Margaret Richardson presented an update report for the Community Partners for Child Safety program, dated October 12, 2007 showing 275 active community partner clients being served.
4. Child Welfare Services Account: Regional Manager Steve Cox distributed copies of the draft Region 7 Strategic Action Plan, an e-mail from Celia Leard and a spreadsheet showing Child Welfare Services fund allocation proposals. Proposal allocates \$24,965.00 additional Child Welfare Service dollars to Region 7. Following discussion, Pat Ergle moved and Deb McGriff-Tharp seconded that the allocation be kept in a "regional pot" rather than distributing to the individual counties. Motion passed. Margaret Richardson related that Community Partners could use additional funds in three general ways: 1) program expansion, 2) expansion of child advocacy center and 3) financial support for counselor services to referred clients. Upon motion of Jackie Fisher and second of Pat Ergle it was agreed that the additional allocation would be used to fund unmet therapeutic needs of referrals that have no alternative funding source. It was further agreed by consensus that Delaware County DCS will serve as fiscal agent for the

additional allotted funds. Margaret Richardson was asked to bring a report to the November 9, 2007 Regional Service Council meeting regarding the previous CWS allocation that was made to Community Partners.

5. Provider Presentation: Regional Manager Steve Cox stated that he would be allowing 10 minutes per service provider at Regional Service Council meetings in an effort to better inform council members of the services available in Region 7. Dunn Center/Foster Care Select presented on their Foster Care program. Wernle and Meridian Services will make presentations at the November 9, 2007 meeting and Resource and YSB of Jay County will present at the December 14, 2007 meeting.
6. Meeting adjourned at 2:35 PM
7. Next meeting scheduled for November 9, 2007